

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

**LEOMINSTER AND WIGMORE
RURAL DISTRICT.**

1937

ISSUED JUNE, 1938.

AREA MEDICAL OFFICE,

LEOMINSTER,

15th June, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members,

Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Chambers, and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit to you my third and last Annual Report based on the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1650.

The Vital Statistics for the year are quite satisfactory. The high maternal mortality rate is accounted for by one case. I would draw your attention to the remarks on housing and also the remarks on sewerage and water supplies.

I should like to acknowledge the work of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. E. Bull, during my term of office here. I have always found him most helpful.

I am, Miss Chambers and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

DAVID G. ANDERSON, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed October, 1935).

Area Medical Office, Leominster. (Tel. No.: Leominster 05).

Sanitary Inspector:

G. E. BULL, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(Appointed 1st April, 1929).

"Colrey," Kingsland. (Tel. No.: Kingsland 11).

Clerical Staff—Area Medical Office:

J. J. ADAMS.

DUTIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health, who is restricted from private practice, is Medical Officer of Health for six other County Districts and assistant County Medical Officer. In this latter capacity he is responsible for the clinical tuberculosis and maternity and child welfare work, he also inspects the school children in a number of the elementary schools and at Leeton Grammar School. Close touch is kept with the Medical Officer who carries out the inspections at the other schools and in this way as good a co-ordination as possible of the various health services is secured.

The Sanitary Inspector is a full time official, he is also petroleum inspector and building surveyor. He has one clerk-pupil to assist him.

The clerk at the Area Medical Office is available for both county and district work.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area— in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94,101
Population— Census 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,563
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,883
Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,768
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,041
Number of Private Families (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,782
Rateable Value— £44,569.								
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£192 2s. 4d							

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is purely an agricultural one. During the year a factory was opened for the collection of milk and the first stage of its condensation. Wage levels and rents are low.

PREVALENCE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

In common with other agricultural areas there has been an increase during the past five or six years. There is also an increase in the amount of casual as contrasted with permanent employment. Unemployment Insurance has mitigated the ill-effects.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year:

	Total.	M.	F.			
Live Births { Legitimate	116	68	48	Birth Rate per 1,000 of		
Illegitimate	10	7	3	the est. res. pop. ...	12.75	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>			
	126	75	51			
Stillbirths	8	6	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	59.70	
Deaths	135	71	64	Death Rate per 1,000 of the est. res. pop. ...	13.66	
				Standardised Death Rate	10.25	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

		DEATHS.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil	
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes ...	1	7.46	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
TOTAL ...	1	7.46	

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:—

- (a) All infants per 1,000 live births 48
- (b) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 26
- (c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 300

Deaths—From Cancer (all ages) 19

From Measles (all ages) 1

From Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

From Diarrhoea (under two years of age) 1

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment Nil

Chief Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1937, compared with those for Leominster and Wigmore Rural District.

	Rate per 1,000 pop.	Rate per 1,000		Maternal Mort. per	
		live births.	live births.	1,000 total births.	
		Deaths	Deaths	Puer.	
		all causes.	under 1 yr. of age.	Sepsis.	Others.
England and Wales	14.9	12.4	58	0.94	2.17
Leominster & Wigmore					
Rural District	... 12.75	13.66*	48	Nil	7.46

* The Standardised Death Rate is 10.25.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.—See beginning of report.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations are made at the County and City Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Bath Street, Hereford. These examinations are carried out free of charge to the County Districts which is of great value. All results are communicated both to the private practitioner and the area medical officer of health so that action may be taken as promptly as possible. Special examinations such as virulence tests in diphtheria are carried out at Birmingham or Bristol University Laboratories.

The following examinations were made at the County Laboratory during the year:

		Positive.	Negative.	Total.
For Diphtheria	...	29	136	165
For Tuberculosis	...	6	11	17
Other Examinations	...	0	1	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is no ambulance maintained by the Authority. A contribution is made to the motor ambulance maintained by the British Red Cross Society. This service is maintained voluntarily and is most efficient. It is available for all non-infectious cases. The ambulance station is in South Street, Leominster (Tel. No. Leominster 421).

Open cases of Tuberculosis are dealt with by the Herefordshire County Council ambulance from Newport Sanatorium.

Removal of cases of other infectious disease are dealt with by the Hereford Rural District Council under the agreement for isolation accommodation.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General Nursing.

The nursing of the non-infectious diseases is undertaken by the various nursing associations which employ nurse-midwives. The associations are paid by the County Council for the services of the nurse in the midwifery, school medical, child welfare and tuberculosis services. No complaints of inadequacy have been received.

The following are the Associations working in the district with the villages served.

Aymestrey and Wigmore:—Aymestrey, Wigmore, Leintward Earles, Leintward Stakes.

Bodenham.—Bodenham, Hope-under-Dinmore, Ford, Newton.

Brimfield: Brimfield, Little Hereford, Eye*, Moreton and Ashton*. Lysters and Middleton-on-the-Hill.

* In these villages there is also a parish nurse who undertakes nursing only. The Brimfield nurse does the health visiting and midwifery.

Bucknell:—Brampton Brian, Bickton and Coxall.

Croft:—Croft, Orleton, Yarpole, Bircher, Lucton, Luston, Eyton, Richard's Castle (Herefordshire).

Docklow:—Docklow, Humber, Hampton Wafer, Hatfield, Newhampton, Pudleston, Kimbolton, Stoke Prior.

Kingsland:—Kingsland, Shobdon.

Leintwardine:—Leintwardine, Adferton, Walford, Downton, Burrington, Aston, Elton.

Radnorshire:—Lingen, Willey.

(b) Infectious Disease Nursing.

No provision is made for the nursing of these diseases in the home.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS, INCLUDING CLINICS SOLELY FOR DIAGNOSIS OR CONSULTATION.

There are none provided by the Authority. Under the County Council schemes there are two clinics.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held on alternate Fridays at 11 a.m.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is conducted on the same days at 2.0 p.m.

Both are held in the Leominster Cottage Hospital Hut, but in different rooms.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the Public Assistance Institution, Hereford.

An Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic is held in the Cottage Hospital Hut on Tuesdays. This clinic is conducted purely on a voluntary basis, though its facilities are made use of by the County Council. Orthopaedic Sisters from the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital attend every meeting. The Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon attends at intervals. Cases are seen at other times at Hereford. Cases requiring Hospital treatment are admitted to the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital (Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt).

HOSPITALS.

Public:—None is provided by the Authority. Sick wards at the Public Assistance Institution, Leominster, are provided by the County Council.

Voluntary:—Situate in the Borough of Leominster is the Leominster Cottage Hospital which was enlarged during 1937 and now in 1938 has 16 beds. The administrative accommodation was also increased. The Hospital possesses both an operating theatre and X-ray plant and carries out a most useful work.

The Hereford General Hospital and the Victoria Eye Hospital at Hereford also serve the district.

The Infectious Disease Hospital is at Stretton Sugwas and the Smallpox Hospital at Bromyard, both available under an arrangement with the Hereford Rural District Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Apart from the matters mentioned in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, the water supplies at Adforton, Wigmore and Leintwardine have been under consideration and now (1938) a consulting engineer has been engaged.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector re Leintwardine has my full approval.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The substitution of improved closets for privies continues.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is given below and includes his comments on certain matters.

The Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector to the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council.

WATER SUPPLIES.

This year though no serious shortage of water occurred throughout the district in general, Birchier Common again suffered serious shortage. A small Committee inspected all the supplies on the Common and recommended to the Council that a well be sunk fitted with a windmill and pump to pump the water into a reservoir on a higher level of the Common and to gravitate from this reservoir to various parts of the Common. On account of expense the scheme was deferred.

Fifty-six samples of water have been taken and sent for analysis. Of these 47 were Chemical Samples and 9 Bacteriological Samples with the following results:

	Pure.	Polluted.	Doubtful
Chemical	23 18	6
Bacteriological	3 6	0

Of the above samples 8 were taken from piped supplies and 48 from wells. The following villages have piped supplies or part piped supplies:

Adforton, Bodenham, Brampton Brian, Eye, Hope, Leinthall Earles, Leinthall Starkes, Leintwardine, Monkland, Stoke Prior and Wigmore.

The following villages have public wells:—

Birchier Common (2), Docklow (1), Linton (2), Luston (1), Leysters (1), Monkland (1), Orleton (2), Shobdon (2), Stoke Prior (1), Brierley Hill (1), The Goggin (1).

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following villages, Brampton Brian, Brimfield, Kingsland, Leintwardine, Richard's Castle and Wigmore, have main drains; in the remainder of the district the sewage and waste water is disposed of on land by private arrangement. Two further extensions were made to the sewer at Leintwardine; in Watling Street it was extended 120 feet and in High Street 132 feet. These extensions were carried out to bring in new houses built beyond the extent of the existing sewer. The sewage outfall at this village is still very much out of date.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse disposal tip at Leintwardine is still working satisfactorily. During the year a refuse tip was obtained for the use of the village of Kingsland.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Six samples of water were taken from Gosford Brook, Brimfield, at the sewer outfall, 3 for chemical and 3 for bacteriological analysis. The report on these samples was that the water gave a fair result for a river.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Forty-six inspections have been made in connection with infectious diseases. Four Schools were disinfected and 28 Houses. Disinfection was carried out by spraying and/or fumigators. There is no steam disinfecter in the district.

No houses were found to be infested with bugs, but 3 houses were found to be infested with fleas. The houses were stripped and fumigated.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 9 slaughterhouses in the district and of these 4 are registered and 5 licensed. One new slaughterhouse was erected at Leintwardine. On the whole the work in the slaughterhouses is carried out satisfactorily. The animals slaughtered are generally of a high quality.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The sampling of milk for Accredited and Tuberculin Tested Licenses is carried out by this department on behalf of the County Council. There are eleven producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and eighteen producers of Accredited milk in the district.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Forty-one informal notices were served on farmers to carry out works under the Act chiefly for uncleanliness and in respect of lime-washing and failure to remove manure. There are two retailers in the district whose premises are outside my area.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 8 bakehouses in the district and on the whole they are kept in a fairly clean condition. There are no bakehouses supplying wrapped bread. Four informal notices in respect of minor defects were served and the defects were remedied.

HOP-PICKERS' QUARTERS.

New Byelaws came into force during the year. There are still 4 farms in the district where "foreign" pickers are employed and housed. The farm at Monkland ceased to employ "foreign" pickers but a new farm at Little Hereford was added to the list.

KNACKER'S YARD.

This business during the year had a change of tenancy and on the whole the business is carried out satisfactorily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There are only 2 factories in the district where power is used. One is Messrs. Cadbury Bros. new Milk Collecting Station at Newton, where mechanical stokers are used and so far no appreciable amount of smoke has been observed rising from the chimneys. The other factory is the Sawmills, Kingsland, where wood fuel is chiefly used. During the coming year this factory will obtain its power from the S.W.S. Electric Company, so there will be no smoke nuisance from these premises in the future.

SHOPS ACTS.

The closing of shops and the hours worked by the employees is under the control of the police in this district. On the whole most of the shops are kept in a good condition as regards cleanliness, lighting, heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation. (There are only a very few in which assistants are employed).

HOUSING.

During the year 26 new houses were built. Eighteen of these were by private enterprise and the other 8 were built by the Council for rehousing displaced persons under the Slum Clearance Scheme. Of the overcrowded houses there are now 24 which are overcrowded, showing a decrease of 22 houses during the year.

Report under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

INSPECTIONS UNDER	No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices served.	Statutory Notices served.	Notices complied with.
Housing (1936) Act	771	213	0	155
Housing Public Health Acts	369	123	0	103
Workshops and Factories	99	11	0	11
Cowsheds and Dairies	695	41	0	41
Bakehouses	24	4	0	4
Slaughterhouses	568	12	0	12
Schools	27	0	0	0
Water Supplies	197	20	0	20
Infectious Disease	46	0	0	0
Knacker's Yard	30	2	0	2
Hop-Pickers' Quarters	32	4	0	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases inquired into	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of Visits in connection with notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Houses Fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Schools Fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

WATER SUPPLIES.

New Wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Piped Supplies to Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Wells Cleaned or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Samples of Water sent for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56

HOP-PICKERS' QUARTERS.

Number of Inspections and Re-inspections of Lodgings	32
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HOUSE DRAINS.

New Drains laid	83
New Houses provided with drains	26
Old Houses provided with drains	57
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cleansed, trapped and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
New Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
New Houses provided with Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Old Houses provided with Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Inspection Chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121

WATER CLOSETS.

Additional provided	11
New Houses provided with Water Closets ...	17
Old Houses provided with Water Closets ...	24
New Filter Beds and Cesspools constructed ...	18
Water Closets rebuilt or repaired	1
Water Closets provided with cisterns	2

PRIVIES.

Converted to Water Closets	8
Converted to Pail Closets	34
Converted to Chemical Closets	2

PAIL CLOSETS.

Erected	14
Abolished	16
Converted to Water Closets	16

BAKETHOUSES.

Number in the district	8
Number of inspections	24

Defects found:—

Nature,	Found.	Action taken	Remedied.
Lack of Limewashing,	4	4, Informal.	4

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

On the Register	9
Number Registered	4
Number Licensed	5
Inspections	568

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on Register	434
Number of Inspections	695

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS ORDER) 1936.

Number of "Tuberculin Tested" Producers ...	11
Number of "Accredited" Producers	18
Number of "Pasturised" Producers	0
Retailers other than licensed by Local Authority ...	2

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Inspections of Slaughterhouses 568

Post-Mortem Inspections.

Number of Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	624
Number of Calves	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1949
Number of Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	819

Condemnations.

	Entire Carcasses.								
Cows	0
Calves	0
Sheep	2
Pigs	1

Parts of Carcasses.

or organs.	Livers.	Heads.	Other Meat.
Cows	20	2	400lbs.
Calves	0	0	0 ,,
Sheep	52	0	60 ,,
Pigs	22	4	50 ,,

All the butchers in the district have regular slaughter days. Animals killed at other times are notified through post.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Bakers	...	...	...	8	Carpenters	...	...	...	14
Blaeksmiths and					Painters	...	...	...	3
Wheelwrights	...	...	31		Laundries	...	...	...	4
Builders and Contraetors	...	7			Plumbers	...	...	...	2
Dressmakers	...	...	1		Cider Works	...	...	...	4
Harness Makers and					Boot Repairers, etc.	...	...	...	5
Saddlers	...	...	1		Woolen Weavers	...	...	...	1
Monumental Masons	...	1			Flour Mills	...	...	...	4
Motor Garages	...	11			Saw Mills	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	1		Masons	...	...	...	4
Jewellers, etc.	...	...	1		Milk Factory	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of Inspections of Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Written notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

			Found to be infested.	Disinfested.
(1) (a)	Council Houses	...	0	0
(b)	Other Houses	...	0	0
	TOTAL	...	0	0

(2) Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bugs.
Liquid Spraying.—Zaldecide and Lawvercide.

- (3) Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses. Liquid spraying of furniture, bedding, etc. No steam disinfecter available.
- (4) Whether work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority or by a contractor.
Local Authority.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Housing Defects Remedied during the Year:—

Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Cooking accommodation provided and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cesspools provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Drains provided to Old Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Drains untrapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dampness prevented	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Earth Floors relaid to Concrete or Tiles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Floors, on ground floor, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Floors of bedrooms repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Food Stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Food Stores provided with ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pails to Pail Closets renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Paving to front and rear of dwelling-houses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Plaster of inside walls and ceilings repaired and made good	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	216
Roofs repaired or made good	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Privy Closets converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Sinks provided to Old Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Sink waste pipes rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Spouts, new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Spouts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Stairs repaired and provided with handrails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Wash Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Wash Copper (new) provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Windows fixed and made to open	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Windows enlarged	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Windows, sash cords repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Walls, outside repaired and made good	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53

Total number remedied 1,196

Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.
(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts:-											
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

ACTION WITH REGARD TO EXISTING HOUSES.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	336
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	1140
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	166
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	475
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...
	...	...	12.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	127

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	113.
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-											
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-											
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-											
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-											
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
(d) As to Ministry of Health's Circular 1650, Proceedings taken	
4. Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding:	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year ...	24
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	21
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	127
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	24
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	177
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil

OVERCROWDING.

The position is similar to that existing in the 1936 Report.

FURTHER INFORMATION.

Number of Official Representations	12
Number of undertakings to repair	3
Number of undertakings not to relet after becoming vacant, such undertaking acceptable by the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council	3

G. E. BULL, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
"Colrey," Kingsland.

HOUSING.

Full statistics are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

During the year it was decided to make use of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts and now (1938) grants have been made.

Eight houses were erected during the year in connection with the slum clearance programme. No more are at present contemplated, though thirty-eight houses have been decided to be unfit, and others will have to be dealt with. The overcrowding programme has been much delayed but with the new subsidy under the 1938 Act I would urge the Council to accelerate the programme.

Satisfactory housing is of great importance for health and also in retaining population in the rural areas.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions of the schools in the district were fully reported in the Annual Report for 1933.

The following schools were closed during the year:—

Adforton.—28th June to 9th July.—Measles.

Aymestrey Leinthall Earles — 1st February to 5th February.—Influenza.

Aymestrey Onneslo's C.—26th January to 5th February.—Influenza.

Bodenham.—20 January to 29th January.—Influenza.

30th April to 14th May.—Measles.

Brampton Brian.—12th February to 19th February.—Influenza.

Brimfield.—14th January to 5th February.—Influenza.

Burrlington.—29th January to 12th February.—Mumps and Influenza.

10th November to 26th November.—Whooping Cough.

13th December to 23 December.—Whooping Cough.

Downton.—2nd February to 5th February.—Influenza.

Eyton.—27th January to 5th February.—Influenza.

8th February to 19th February.—Measles.

Hope-under-Dinmore.—1st March to 25th March.—Measles.

Humber.—25th January to 5th February.—Influenza

Kimbolton.—4th January to 15th January.—Measles.

28th January to 5th February.—Influenza.

Kingsland.—5th January to 5th February.—Measles.

Leysters.—27th January to 5th March.—Influenza and Measles.

Little Hereford.—4th January to 22nd January.—Measles
On 25th June.—Diphtheria.

Monkland.—18th January to 26th February.—Influenza & Measles.

Orleton.—4th January to 8th January.—Measles.

25th June to 2nd July.—Diphtheria.

Pudleston.—27th January to 26th February.—Measles.

Shobdon.—24th November to 10th December.—Scarlet Fever and Conghs and Colds.

Stoke Prior.—27th January to 26th February.—Measles.

Yarpole.—5th February to 12th February.—Influenza.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1937, thirty-seven cases were notified as shown in the table, this compares with thirty-two in 1936.

Scarlet Fever:

No connection could be traced between the occurrence of cases in different houses, except at Shobdon, where the school was closed and the disease abated, though no source of infection was found.

Plurality of cases in one house was common this year

Diphtheria:

Of the nine notified cases, five were in a small outbreak at Orleton, and of these three occurred simultaneously in one house. Two cases occurred in a hop-pickers' gipsy encampment, where a carrier of a virulent organism was found.

The other two cases were sporadic. One case was diagnosed on the swab result, the organism ultimately proved to be a diphtheroid.

Influenza:

In common with the rest of the country there was an epidemic of this disease early in the year. In one house three deaths occurred from a pneumonia similar to that seen in 1918-19, but enquiries from practitioners did not reveal any other cases of this type.

Measles:

This disease was prevalent in the early part of the year, rather later than the Influenza. Ten schools were closed for this complaint by the School Medical Officer.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937.

Disease.	All ages.	CASES NOTIFIED.											Cases and ad. to T'tl over. H'p. Dts.		
		Under 1 yr.	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65			
Scarlet Fever	15	—	—	1	—	2	5	4	1	2	—	—	11	—	
Diphtheria	9	—	1	1	1	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	8	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Ac. Primary Pneumonia	8	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	5	
Ac. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	
Total ...	37	—	1	2	5	2	9	5	2	4	—	5	2	19	8

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

During 1937-19 cases from the District were admitted to the Credenhill Isolation Hospital. No cases have been refused admission, but, on occasion we have had to wait while it was ascertained whether there was a vacant bed.

The present arrangement is that the Hospital is owned and worked by the Hereford Rural District, which also rents the old Bromyard Isolation Hospital as a Smallpox Hospital. The District retains 2 beds at a retaining fee of £15 per bed. The Councils are only entitled to have the number of patients in hospital for which they retain beds. The only two diseases other than Smallpox, in the agreement are Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, moreover they must not be complicated on admission by either having been in contact with or, even more important, by being actual sufferers from some other infectious disease. The hospital authorities have always, but as an act of grace, taken in other infections such as Typhoid Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and the like. They have, also, not insisted on the number of patients being limited and as many as six cases have been in hospital from one district at one time. No attempt has been made to obtain extra payment for these cases, maintenance charges being the same as for those cases covered by the retaining fee.

The facts are quite definite as regards the present arrangements.

(a) The number of beds available under the agreement for each authority is inadequate.

(b) The diseases treated under the agreement are too limited. The inability to obtain accommodation for complicated cases of measles, whooping cough and influenza was mentioned in last year's report.

The use of a common hospital has proved its worth in more beds being available for a given authority at a given time than would have been the case if provision had been made in a small hospital for that authority only.

The importance of having definite arrangements for the treatment of all infectious diseases cannot be overstressed. Delay through having to find or improvise accommodation may seriously jeopardise the chances of recovery of the patient.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1936, there were thirty-four cases on the Notification Register. During the year fourteen were added (ten Pulmonary and four Non-Pulmonary) and ten were removed, leaving thirty-eight on the Register at the end of 1937.

Age Period.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—
45	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwd	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	4	5	2	2	1	2	1
								0

ADULTERATION OF FOOD, ETC.

The administration of these acts and regulations is carried out by the County Council through the police.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

There are no laboratories carrying out such work in the district. The bacteriological and other examination of food stuffs in cases of suspected food poisoning would be dealt with under the Ministry of Health's scheme.

NUTRITION.

Teaching by talks in the Infant Welfare Centres (in addition to individual advice) has been carried out. At school medical inspections the teachers are requested to give their views on the feeding of the children and general questions, such as the need for iodised salt in the prevention of goitre, are discussed.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Talks are given by the Medical Officer of Health at clubs, Women's Institutes, etc., on request.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The County Council carry out all the work under this heading. Your Medical Officer of Health as Assistant County Medical Officer arranges for the treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

In the Annual Report for 1936 it was advised that hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease other than Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever was required and this would apply to cases where complications involving the eyes arose.

The cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum dealt with are summarised below.

CASES. Notified.	Treated.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
	At home.	In hospital.				
Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1937.

					M.	F.
1. Measles (2)	...	...	...	...	1	0
2. Influenza (6)	...	...	...	...	3	2
3. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (9)	...	...	...	...	1	2
4. Other Tuberculous Diseases (10)	...	...	...	...	1	0
5. Cancer, Malignant Disease (13)	...	...	...	...	10	9
6. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. (15)	...	...	...	...	4	6
7. Heart Disease (16)	...	...	...	...	23	25
8. Other Circulatory Diseases (18)	...	...	...	...	1	1
9. Bronchitis (19)	...	...	...	...	0	1
10. Pneumonia (all forms) (20)	...	...	...	...	4	4
11. Other Respiratory Diseases (21)	...	...	...	...	0	1
12. Peptic Ulcer (22)	...	...	...	...	1	0
13. Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years) (23)	...	...	...	...	1	0
14. Appendicitis (24)	...	...	...	...	0	1
15. Other Diseases of Liver, etc. (26)	...	...	...	...	1	0
16. Other Digestive Diseases (27)	...	...	...	...	2	3
17. Acute and Chronic Nephritis (28)	...	...	...	...	3	1
18. Other Puerperal Causes (30)	...	...	...	...	0	1
19. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. (31)	...	...	...	...	2	2
20. Senility (32)	...	...	...	...	0	1
21. Other Violence (34)	...	...	...	...	5	0
22. Other Defined Causes (35)	...	...	...	...	2	3
23. Causes Ill-defined, or Unknown (36)	...	...	...	...	0	1

Total ... 135 71 64

(The figures in brackets refer to the Registrar-General's Short List).

INFANT MORTALITY, 1937.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under One Year of age:—

Prematurity	...	1	1 Male, 4 hours 1 Female, 1 day } Twin Labour. 1 Female, 1 day. 1 Male, 1 month.
Acute Bronchitis	...	1	1 Female, 4 months.
Gastro-enteritis	...	1	1 Male, 2 months.
		6	

Nett Deaths in Year of { Legitimate Infants ... 3
 Illegitimate Infants ... 3

ADOPTIVE LEGISLATION, ETC.

During the year new Byelaws were adopted with reference to:—

- (a) Housing of Hop-pickers, etc., and
- (b) New Buildings.